

LOUISBURG PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 12, 2015

The Park Board of Louisburg, Kansas met at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers with Bob Bazin presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Board Chairperson: Bob Bazin

Board Members: Jack Kline, Lonnie Kuntz

City Administrator: Jeff Cantrell

Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham

Visitors: Cindy Apple, Rita Cassida

Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Lonnie Kuntz to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jack Kline. Motion carried 3-0.

Item 2: Approval of minutes

A motion was made by Jack Kline to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2014 Park Board meetings. The motion was seconded by Lonnie Kuntz. Motion carried 3-0.

Item 3: Public Comment

Chairperson Bob Bazin opened the meeting for public comment. Cindy Apple (Representing LARA) approached the podium and began to discuss scheduling baseball/softball fields at Lewis-Young Park for the upcoming 2015 season. Apple explained that LARA used A, B, and C fields last year. The issue that they ran into was that field A was a little too large for the younger kids to play games on. The backstops were too deep. It was mentioned that a portable backstop maybe useful, but that comes at a cost. Apple suggested that teams that play out of town should primarily use field A leaving B and C for other teams such as LARA to practice and play games on. Fields B and C are better suited for younger kids like those who play with LARA. Apple mentioned that LARA spent about \$8,400.00 on field maintenance and upgrades on B and C fields last year. In contrast, LARA hasn't spent much money on field A. Because of the large number of kids that play within LARA, Apple wishes to have the ability to still use field A if needed on a contingency basis. Field A is not the preferred field for LARA. Apple wants to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to play on the fields and wishes streamline the scheduling process to benefit all. Cantrell explained the history and reasons behind the scheduling policy that's currently in place and the fact that the City receives federal dollars for the park which necessitates certain policies be followed in order to ensure that park resources aren't being held to the exclusion of others.

After additional discussions, Jack Kline made the following motion:

Lewis-Young Baseball/Softball field scheduling priority

1. USD416 – Has priority scheduling over all other organizations
2. LARA – Deadline to submit schedule to City Clerk by 1 March
3. Secondary Users – Teams may submit requests for remaining slots to City Clerk on 7 March

The motion was seconded by Lonnie Kuntz and passed 3-0. This topic with recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for further discussion and possible action.

Cindy Apple then mentioned that LARA found a grant that may provide funding for new bleachers at Lewis-Young Park. Apple wanted to know if the Park Board would be in favor of LARA pursuing such a grant. There were no objections from the Board.

BUSSINESS ITEMS

Item 4: Park Budget

Further search required. This item will be discussed at a later date.

Item 5: Lewis-Young (L/Y) Share Cropper Request

Jeff Cantrell mentioned that the Staff searched the possibilities of entering into a Share Cropper agreement for the vacant ground located in L/Y Park. It is possible to lease additional acreage to the adjacent famer. However, there are some things that should be taken into consideration. The Boy Scouts and other organizations frequently use the surrounding trails and field in question although alternate trail routes are possible. Cantrell added that the potential financial gain should be weighed against the recreational space lost in the park as a result of expanding the Share Cropper agreement. Bob Bazin asked how much the City could expect to earn per acre. Cantrell replied about \$90- \$100 per acre and he estimated that there is about 12-13 acres available to lease. The net gain would be about \$1,300. A discussion occurred considering erosion control and the removal of a fence. The Board decided not to pursue the Share Cropper agreement.

After further discussion Jack Kline made a motion recommending that the Share Cropper Agreement not be expanded into additional acreage in Lewis-Young Park.

The motion was seconded by Lonnie Kuntz and passed 3-0. This topic with recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for further discussion and possible action.

Item 6: Discussion Concerning Bi-Laws

Further search is required. This item will be discussed at a later date. Rusty Whitham will resend a previous email containing information on this topic to all Park Board Members.

Item 7: OLD BUSINESS:

A discussion concerning the current park fees occurred. After review of the fee schedule, all agreed that the fee for camping at Lewis-Young Park is set too low. Below is the current campsite policy:

- There are no fees for Louisburg Scouting Organizations to use the campsites in Lewis-Young Park.
- Scouting organizations based outside of city limits are charged \$50 for a weekend campout regardless of number of campers.

After further discussion Jack Kline made a motion recommending that the fee for camping at Lewis-Young Park be increase using a fiver tier system:

Tier 1 = 50 and under campers have no fee
Tier 2 = 51-100 campers are assessed a \$50 fee
Tier 3 = 101-200 campers are assessed a \$100 fee
Tier 4 = 201-300 campers are assessed a \$200 fee
Tier 5 = over 300 campers are assessed a \$300 fee

The motion was seconded by Lonnie Kuntz and passed 3-0. This topic with recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for further discussion and possible action.

Item 8: REPORTS:

Chairperson Bob Bazin read aloud the Annual City Parks Status Report. The report was accepted without corrections by the Board. Bazin will present this Report to the City Council during the January 20th meeting.

Rita Cassida mentioned that the Mid American Regional Council has a trail counter that is available to use. She explained that the trail counter can determine the actual number of people using the park trails in our parks system. Cassida wanted to know if the Park Board thought it would be beneficial for the City to borrow it. All agreed that this would be great information to have. It was suggested to place the counter at two locations in Ron Weers Park. The bridge and trail head near the large parking lot was mentioned as possible locations.

Cassida mentioned that the use of the trail counter is free. However, the City may have to provide a post and bracket. No objections were made. Cassida will coordinate the use of the trail counter.

No further discussion occurred.

Item 9: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Jack Kline to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lonnie Kuntz. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham
Recording Secretary